(d) if the assent of His Highness the Maharaja to the Bill has been applied for, are the Government in a position to state the reason for the delay in obtaining it ;

(2) will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any memorials from the Nambudiries praying for an early passing of the Bill into law, and if so, will the Government kindly place all those memorials on the Table ?

(3) have the Government taken into serious consideration the economic deterioration creeping into the community owing to the arbitrary system of family management prevalent among them ;

(4) have the Government taken any notice of the grave resentment spreading in the community owing to the delay in passing the Bill into law ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(1) (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The Bill is under consideration. Nothing further can be stated in the matter.

(2) Yes. Government regret that the memorials cannot be placed on the Table.

(3) Government are not aware of any such economic deterioration.

(4) Government are not aware of any grave resentment in the community as a whole.

Construction of a road in Chalakkudi.

670. **Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to answer :—

(a) whether a petition was received from the inhabitants of Ambazhakad, Vyntala, Vennur, Kallur, Sampallur, Kottakkal, Pazhukara, Meladur, Kizhedur, etc., in Mukundapuram Taluk, addressed to the Diwan of Cochin on 10th December 1919, praying for the construction of a road connecting Chalakkudi Railway Station with the Mala public road;

(b) whether any action was taken in this matter; and if so, what action;

(c) whether another petition addressed to the Chief Engineer was received on 28th July 1920 from the inhabitants of the above-mentioned villages, praying that the Mala-Chalakkudi connecting road may be sanctioned at once, as it was felt by those people as an urgent necessity;

(d) whether any action was taken in the matter of the petition referred to in (c) and if so, what action;

(e) whether petitions addressed to the Diwan of Cochin were received during last year and the year before that, pointing out the great hardship and difficulties the inhabitants of Mala, Eastern Chalakkudi, Western Chalakkudi, Ambazhakad, Alathur, etc., in Mukundapuram Taluk, were put to, owing to the

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lack of a connecting road between Mala and Chalakkudi and requesting that the construction of the road in question may be sanctioned, as early as possible, if petitions were received, how many, on which dates, and what action has been taken in the matter up-to-date;

(f) whether the Government are aware that these people have been making this request from a very long time in the past even from 1913;

The Government may be pleased to place on the Table the following orders or communications passed in this matter:

(i) Dis. 975/D/1088, from the Secretary to the Diwan, dated 11th June 1913;

(ii) Dis. No. 1935/D/1088, Chief Engineer's report, dated 3rd June 1913;

(iii) R. O. P. No. 78/1095, dated 12th April 1920;

(iv) Dis. No. 1907/D/1096, dated 25th January 1921;

(g) whether the Government are aware that the then Diwan of Cochin Mr. (now Sir) Vijayaraghavachariar was presented with an address of welcome by the members of the Roman Catholic community of the Parish Church of Ambazhakad, when he visited the place on the 8th March 1920 and that in his reply to the address, he made the following remarks:—

"You refer to your local wants. I sympathise with your desire to have a direct route to Chalakkudi. To-day I have had to motor over 12 miles to get to your place, though you are only four miles distant, as the crow flies from Chalakkudi..... Under the circumstances your request for a direct connection with Chalakkudi is a reasonable one and I shall do my best to comply with it";

(h) whether the Government have made enquiries as to the extreme necessity of opening this new line of connection between Mala and Chalakkudi, a request considered to be a reasonable one by the Diwan of Cochin even 8 years back;

(i) whether the Government have taken steps to make a survey and draw up an estimate in this connection;

(j) whether the Government have seriously considered over the question of providing for its construction in the next budget?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) A petition, dated 22nd December 1919, was received.

(b) This was enquired into by the Public Works Department.

(c) Such a petition is not forthcoming.

(d) Please see answer above.

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(e) A petition, dated 8th Kanni 1103, was received. This too has been enquired into.

(f) Yes. But the Road Committee appointed in pursuance of the Diwan's Proceedings, dated 20th January 1915, C. 310/1090, has not, in their report, dated 5th April 1916, recommended this road.

Since the matter is still under investigation, there appears to be little use in placing these papers on the Table at this stage.

(g) Yes.

(h) Yes.

(i) No regular survey nor estimating was done.

(j) The two different alignments have been proposed for this road, the one from 1/4 of the Vyntala road roughly costing Rs. 16,000 and the other from 0/2 of the same road.

The Chief Engineer's final report regarding them has not been received. The question of providing funds can be considered only after receiving the Chief Engineer's final report about the alignment and their exact cost.

Nerangampara and Pothundi coupes.

671. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the names of the contractors to whom the fuel coupes of Nerangampara and Pothundi were given during the last 3 years; how much fuel was removed by each of them and what was the amount realised from each every year and how many trees were cut for fuel each year;

(2) were any of the contractors allowed to remove timber; if so, who are they; what was the quantity of timber removed; what was the kind of timber and what was the amount realised in each case every year; was there any notification inviting tenders for the removal of such timber; if so, when; was the notification only for the removal of fuel;

(3) are there instances except the above in the Forest Department where the same contractor was allowed to remove the trunk, the toplings and the fuel at the same time; if so, to whom and when?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(1) The fuel coupes were opened from 1102 only. The names of the contractors for 1102 and 1103 are V. K. Nayar and R. Viswanathan Chetti. The former removed 1,500 cart-loads of fuel for Rs. 650 in 1102 and the latter 2,000 cart-loads for Rs. 900 in 1102. 1,800 trees were marked for felling. In 1103 V. K. Nayar removed 810 cart-loads of fuel for Rs. 603—4—6 and R. Viswanathan Chetti 1,620 cart-loads for Rs. 1,206—9—0. 2,281 trees were marked for felling.

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